



wisconsin department of  
**children & families**

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Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

**For Immediate Release**

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**Another Child Care Provider Pleads Guilty to Defrauding Taxpayers**

Today, another child care provider pleaded guilty to defrauding the Wisconsin Shares program. This is the fifth person in the past month to plead guilty rather than go to trial. These guilty pleas are a result of years of hard work and collaboration between the Department of Children and Families and law enforcement.

Zelda Jackson was the license holder for Zelda's Love and Happiness Child Care and was suspended from the Wisconsin Shares program in 2009. She has pled guilty to one count of theft by fraud and will be sentenced in September.

Ms. Jackson is the fifth person in recent weeks to plead guilty to defrauding the Shares program. In May, Latasha Jackson, who was the license holder of Executive Kids, pleaded guilty as did Duane and Shontina Gladney who worked with Ms. Jackson. Last week, another associate of Ms. Jackson, Telisa Hopgood, also pleaded guilty in federal court.

"It is clear from all of these recent guilty pleas that these fraudulent providers recognize the Department and law enforcement are committed to aggressively pursuing those who commit child care fraud in the Wisconsin Shares program," said Eloise Anderson, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families. "This should be a clear message to those who attempt to defraud the taxpayers."

"Fraudulent providers drain scarce resources, tarnish the image of all day care providers who operate legally and provide a much needed service to their communities," continued Secretary Anderson.

Governor Walker and the Department of Children and Families are committed to ensuring that public funds are used only by those who are honestly working to provide important services to Wisconsin families. By tackling fraud in Wisconsin Shares, the Department of Children and Families has saved taxpayers over \$148 million.

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families encourages the public to report suspected child care fraud by either calling 1-877-302-FRAUD (3728) or go to the Department's website at [dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov) and click on the "Report Fraud" button.